

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-08 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00 COME-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /067 W
-----084182 061422Z /64

R 071246Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6653
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
DA WASHDC
CDRUSASAC ALEX VA
CDRTARCOM WARREN MI
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 05090

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PURCHASE OF M60 TANKS (U)

SECDEF FOR DSAA-TS-A, DA FOR DALO-SA, USASAC FOR DRSAC-
ME/SE, TARCOM FOR DRSTA-PM60/BWE, CINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7-SA

REFS: (A) SECSTATE 207984/1 310241Z AUG77 (C)
(B) SECSTATE 252478/1 211400Z OCT77 (C)
(C) SECSTATE 047743/1 240237Z FEB78 (C)
(D) USDAO/SAO 00975 021451Z FEB78 (C) NOTAL (SECSTATE
SECDEF)
(E) USDAO/SAO 04825 261512Z MAY78 (C)
(F) CINCEUR ECJ4/7-SA 8974 010907Z JUN78 (U) NOTAL (DA
CDRUSASAC CDRTARCOM)

1. (U) REF F POINTS OUT THAT THIS OFFICE DID NOT SUBMIT A
REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF OFFER AND PLANNING & AVAILABILITY
(P&A) DATA FOR PURCHASE OF M60 TANKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GUIDANCE PROMULGATED IN REFERENCES A THRU C.
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2. (U) IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH APPROPRIATE DIRECTIVES, THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO ACCORD WITH REF A:

A. (C) AUSTRIA REQUESTS THE PURCHASE OF FIFTY (50) M60
TANKS VIA FMS TO REPLACE OBSOLETE M47 TANKS WITH WHICH ONE
OF ITS FOUR ARMOR BATTALIONS IS CURRENTLY EQUIPPED.

B. (C) THE M60 TANKS WILL STRENGTHEN THE OVERALL DEFENSIVE POSTURE OF AUSTRIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN DEFENSE POLICIES AND IN CONSONANCE WITH US SECURITY ASSISTANCE GOALS. THE M47 TANKS, WHICH ARE STILL OPERATIONAL, WILL THEN BE TRANSFERRED TO AUSTRIAN RESERVE UNITS, EVEN FURTHER ENHANCING AUSTRIA'S OVERALL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES. THIS SALE WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND THERE ARE NO ARMS CONTROL IMPLICATIONS.

C. (U) AUSTRIA CURRENTLY HAS 120 M60 TANKS IN ITS MILITARY INVENTORY. VIA EXISTING SUPPLY SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS, AUSTRIA HAS THE LOGISTIC CAPABILITY OF SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL M60 TANKS. AUSTRIA ALSO POSSESSES THE CAPABILITY OF FULLY OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THESE ADDITIONAL TANKS EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ONLY ONE OFFICIAL USG REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR NEGOTIATION OF THE CONTRACT AND THAT A QUALITY ASSURANCE TEAM WOULD BE REQUIRED UPON DELIVERY TO PROTECT USG AND GOA INTERESTS.

D. (U) GOA DOES NOT REQUEST OR EXPECT USG FINANCING. GOA OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THEY UNDERSTAND THAT A 25 DEPOSIT WILL BE REQUIRED AT TIME OF CONTRACT SIGNATURE, WITH INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS THEREAFTER.

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E. (U) AUSTRIA HAS ALREADY ASKED FOR A TECHNICAL DATA PACKAGE TO CONVERT THEIR CURRENT M60 TANKS TO THE M60A1-RISE MODEL. GOA HAS ALSO ASKED FOR A TECHNICAL DATA PACKAGE, TO BE PROVIDED WHEN THE DATA HAS BEEN COMPILED BY THE USG, TO FURTHER CONVERT THE M60A1-RISE MODEL TO THE M60A3 MODEL TANK. WE CANNOT COMPUTE DIRECT OR INDIRECT COSTS TO THE GOA OF THIS PURCHASE UNTIL WE HAVE RECEIVED THE COSTS OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TDP'S. HOWEVER, GOA HAS INDICATED THAT CONVERSION WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AS A JOINT MILITARY/CIVILIAN PROJECT IN AUSTRIA AND WE ARE SURE THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT FOR AUSTRIAN CITIZENS. THUS, ADDITIONAL DIRECT/INDIRECT COSTS ARE NOT A CONSIDERATION TO THE GOA.

F. (U) THE PROPOSED SALE WOULD BE IN ACCORD WITH THE PRESIDENT'S ARMS TRANSFER POLICY IN THAT THE TANKS WOULD BE USED TO IMPROVE (AUSTRIA'S) INTERNAL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES.

G. (U) AUSTRIA IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HAS AN ADMIRABLE RECORD IN THIS AREA.

H. (U) THE USG SHOULD APPROVE THIS SALE OF M60 TANKS TO AUSTRIA AS IT WILL:

(1) IMPROVE GOA'S ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF, IF NECESSARY, AGAINST INCURSION OF HOSTILE FORCES INTO ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY;

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 05090

(2) MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE USG/GOA MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS;

(3) PROVIDE CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF USG SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING AUSTRIA'S STATUS AS AN ARMED NEUTRAL;

(4) INDICATE USG INTEREST IN IMPROVING NATIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES OF OTHER NEUTRAL NATIONS; AND

(5) CONFIRM THE USG'S LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO FREE AND INDEPENDENT AUSTRIA. WOLF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENNA05090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780236-0221
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From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 207984, 78 STATE 252478, 78 STATE 47743
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2445979
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRIAN PURCHASE OF M60 TANKS (U) SECDEF FOR DSAA-TS-A, DA FOR DALO-SA, USASAC FOR DRSAC- ME/SE, TARCOM FOR DRSTA-PM60/BWE, CINCEUR FOR ECJ4
TAGS: MASS, AU, US
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Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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20 Mar 2014
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